

Virginia African American Advisory Board Meeting
Thursday, August 25, 2022
12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Virginia Union University Living Learning Center
1813-1899 Bath Street, Richmond, VA 23220

Attendees:

Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Rev. Cozy Bailey, Cameron Patterson, Monica Reid, Dr. Ingrid Grandberry Grant, Robert Barnette Jr., Hope Cupit, Toria Edmonds-Howell, Sheila Dixon, Tia Yancey, Rev. Joe Chase, Mr. Clarence Neeley, Mrs. Philomena Desmond-Ogugua

Absent:

Precious Muhammad, Chris Sanchez, Dr. Van Wilson, Eldon Burton, Keren Charles Dongo,

The Board convened for Lunch and Board Fellowship at 12:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green. Dr. Ivey Green mentioned the conversation regarding Black Owned Businesses, thanked our host Virginia Union University, and mentioned that their President would join later in the meeting to share some remarks. She also provided an overview of the agenda which includes Committee Breakouts to finalize report sections. Dr. Ivey Green mentioned the annual report timeline. She emphasized that we are at the stage where we submit our report to the Board liaison for input from Cabinet / staff. Then in September / October we present our report to the Governor.

Dr. Ivey Green turned the meeting over to Cameron Patterson, Board Secretary who asked for an approval of the June meeting minutes and adoption of the August Meeting Agenda. Due to lack of quorum at the time of this vote, we decided to return later in the meeting.

The Board unanimously to approve the June meeting minutes and adoption of the August meeting agenda. Those voting in favor for both items include;

Dr. Cheryl Ivey Green, Rev. Cozy Bailey, Cameron Patterson, Monica Reid, Dr. Ingrid Grandberry Grant, Robert Barnette, Hope Cupit, Toria Edmonds-Howell, Sheila Dixon, Tia Yancey, Rev. Joe Chase, Mr. Clarence Neeley, Mrs. Philomena Desmond-Ogugua.

Suzanne Holland shared a Board Administrative Update. Those updates including some housekeeping announcements, annual report timeline, travel reimbursements, and other items. Suzanne emphasized Administration priorities regarding cutting cost, restoring excellence in education, keeping our communities safe, and reinvigorating job growth and making Government work for Virginians.

We were reminded that all of our recommendations did not have to come in the form of policy recommendations. We could consider administrative actions, direct Board initiatives, and outreach opportunities in our report. Finally, we ended with reminder that recommendations take time.

Rev. Cozy Bailey led a discussion regarding our committees. This included an update regarding where we were with reporting and expectations as we move forward. The Small Black-Owned Business Committee shared about support and funding to connect with Black businesses, accessing contracting procedures within the Commonwealth, and opportunities for continuing education.

The Education Committee reported about increasing the number of Diverse Educators, opportunities for Mental / Behavioral Health, and creating career pathways for African American students. The Health & Environment Committee spoke about ensuring access to healthcare for all, collecting data regarding

firearms, and data collection for communities of color. The Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee reported about gun violence as a public health emergency, revising Virginia's pretrial system, ensuring folks are not subjected to costly pretrial detention. The committees will continue to work to finalize their goals before putting together the final information that will be included in the report.

Respectfully Submitted

Cameron D. Patterson
Secretary, Virginia African American Advisory Board